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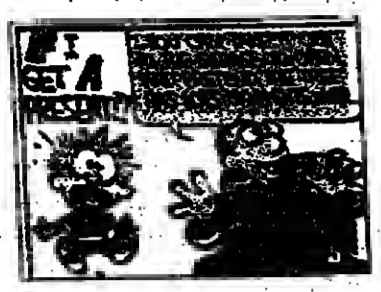
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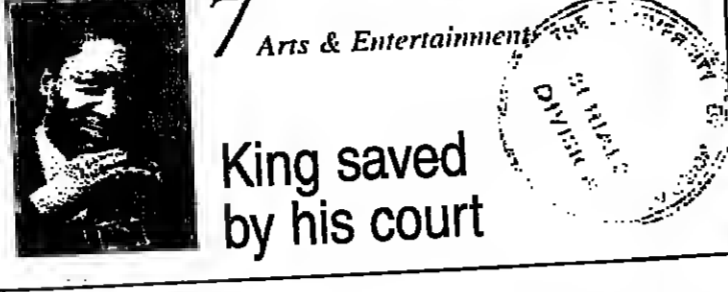
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## US threatens to attack if Iraq blocks palaces search

**By JONATHAN WRIGHT**  
 WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US said on Friday that Iraqi media tours of its presidential palaces showed "rank hypocrisy" and warned Baghdad that its last resort is a military strike if UN arms inspectors are barred from visiting these and other places.  
 The tough US rhetoric followed what White House spokesman

Mike McCurry called a "very troubling" report from chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler, who believes some banned arms were hidden in Iraq's so-called presidential sites.  
 Iraq has prevented the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) from checking the sites, provoking a crisis with the UN and the US. But it took reporters and Western television crews to some of the sites on Friday in a bid to prove Butler's suspicions were groundless.  
 "What's clear is that Iraq does not want UNSCOM to go to those sites to do its work, but it's willing to let reporters go there to visit what they claim to be sensitive and sovereign sites," said State Department spokesman James Foley.  
 "I think it's a demonstration of rank hypocrisy on Iraq's part... The Iraqi claims of sovereignty, prohibiting UN access to those sites, are hypocritical," Foley added.  
 US Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, said Washington hoped diplomacy would persuade Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to open all suspected weapons sites. But it is leaving the door open to unilateral military action, he added.

"We're being wise. We're being steady. Our policy has worked: diplomacy, negotiation first. And we haven't ruled out military action. That's our policy... We're going to continue that," Richardson said on the NBC Today program.  
 McCurry said the US expected members of the UN Security Council to "listen very carefully to the evidence" presented by Butler. He said on Friday he suspected Iraq was hiding some banned weapons at the "presidential sites," though not necessarily at those opened to the media.  
 Butler's team pulled out of Iraq for a time last month in a dispute with Baghdad over the number of American members.  
 If Iraq revived any dormant programs to develop weapons of mass destruction while the inspectors were absent or is trying to hide arms that are outlawed under Gulf War cease-fire terms, that would be "a very grave matter," McCurry said.  
 Richardson earlier dismissed the press visits to the presidential buildings as Iraqi propaganda.  
 "They are playing games. Those are programmed tours. If they have nothing to fear, why don't they let the UN inspectors into those presidential sites?" he told CNN.

Communications minister to challenge Lieberman

### Livnat to run for World Likud head

**By MICHAL YUDELMAN**  
 Communications Minister Limor Livnat said Friday she will run for the position of World Likud chairman, in what is seen as a challenge to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who supports former Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman.  
 Tension is mounting in the Likud in anticipation of today's World Likud convention, which many fear will "explode" due to the deepening rivalry between the Netanyahu-Lieberman camp and a group of Likud veterans.  
 Also contending for the chairmanship is Yossi Ben-Aharon, former director-general of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir's office.  
 Some 300 delegates from Likud branches world-wide are to attend the convention and scheduled elections today at Likud headquarters, Metzudat Ze'ev.  
 Livnat's decision to contend came in reaction to Netanyahu's official letter of support for Lieberman, who is believed by some to be planning to push Livnat and other rivals of the prime minister out of important positions in the party.  
 Livnat's chances are estimated to be good, as many of the Likud's world delegates share her hawkish political positions. For this reason incumbent World Likud chairman Ronni Milo, who has moderate stands, saw his chances of being re-elected as slim, and he decided to step down.  
 Livnat said she had reached her decision after many delegates from



**Paying homage**  
 Hadash MK Azmi Bashara lays a wreath yesterday at the tomb of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shukaki at the Palestinian Martyrs Cemetery near Damascus. Bashara is visiting Damascus at the invitation of the Syrian government. (Reuters)

## PM to give Clinton pullback map in Jan.

**By JAY BUSHINSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER**  
 Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is likely to meet with President Bill Clinton next month and show him the cabinet's decision on the precise limits of the IDF's next withdrawal in the West Bank, according to a senior official.  
 Today's cabinet session will provide another opportunity to close the gaps between various ministers' assessments of the amount of territory Israel can afford to transfer to the

**UK's Cook slams Israel after talks with Arafat, Page 2**

Palestinian Authority's control, but "it will take more time, probably until January 15, for them to reach a consensus," the source said.  
 Within approximately the same time frame, the PA is expected to reconfirm and begin implementation of its commitment to assure the maintenance of security and elimination of terrorist infrastructure necessary for the troop pullback to take place.  
 "There is wall-to-wall agreement in the cabinet on the need for security compliance on the part of the Palestinians," a government official said. "It includes the so-called 'super-doves' - Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak

## World Likud is new arena for internal party feud

A few weeks ago when the row over lists of delegates to the World Likud convention first came up and was brought before Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, he was reported to have protested furiously: "The World Likud? I should really be involved with that? You are dragging me there, too? Don't I have anything better to do?"  
 In one sense, his exclamation spoke for the Likud mainstream, where few knew much about the World Likud, and those who do have a vague realization it exists ascribe very little importance to the near-esoteric organization, which opens its convention today.  
 The World Likud is not the party we know from the Knesset. Rather, it is a sister entity whose

### COMMENT

By SARAH HOMIG

arena is the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency. All Zionist parties in Israel have such international annexes to represent them in this

Likud still caused no eyelash to bat. The current furor there is a carry-over from the disarray of November's chaotic Likud convention. The Likud continues to feud.  
 If the central home arena is ostensibly dormant just now, then the tireless warriors just elsewhere.  
 See LIKUD, Page 2

### 'Personal Post' to be electronic pioneer

**By JUDY SIEGEL**  
 The Jerusalem Post will soon be the first newspaper in the world to use an innovative Israeli technology that turns electronic newspapers into a personalized edition delivered daily to the subscriber's computer in a user-friendly, newspaper format.  
 The infoPager system was developed by Zebra Pushware Solutions, a small Jerusalem company founded in May of last year. As the "Personal Post," it allows instant delivery of The Jerusalem Post anywhere an Internet provider is available. Readers interested in certain subjects can

save time by customizing their electronic paper to contain articles only in those fields. Single articles or the whole paper can easily be printed out. In addition, users can click advertisement icons, even when off-line, and view multimedia commercials.  
 "For us, infoPager is an extremely exciting opportunity. It opens up new possibilities. It really is a global village," said Post president and publisher Norman Spector. "All tests of the system have been very positive, and we know that the Personal Post edition is an excellent product. It will cost subscribers only 50 US cents a day, and we are offering a one-month free trial."  
 Zebra founder and CEO Drew Tick said that Japanese and other foreign publishers of some of the 1,800 electronic newspapers around the world have shown much interest in the system, which will be translated into other languages.  
 See Science & Technology, Page 10



## The Swedish vision of zero traffic deaths

### IT'S NO ACCIDENT

By Larry Dierfer

they don't have steep embankments that send cars capsizing down the hill, they've put up fewer poles to crash into," he says. "Sweden put in a lot of effort in upgrading vehicle and road safety standards. The Swedish always

had an ergonomic approach to traffic safety. They don't use wonderful words like 'mentality' to explain road deaths, like we do."  
 In the Australian state of Victoria, traffic deaths went down from about 800 to 400 in 1990.  
 "They put in hundreds of speed cameras all over the place," Richter says, maintaining that cameras are cheaper and more effective than police officers at catching speeders.  
 Laws requiring bicyclists to wear helmets have been adopted in New Jersey, Australia, England

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# Scholarship fund mooted for combat veterans

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A movement in under way to give all soldiers serving in combat units a scholarship to pursue academic studies after they are released.

The move comes at the initiative of the defense establishment and is aimed at harnessing the public behind efforts to boost morale and motivation among combat troops.

The initial goal is to raise NIS 30 million for the fund, which will be administered by the Soldiers' Welfare Association. Dubbed "Adopt a Fighter," some of the nation's top business people have already joined the project and the effort is expected to receive wide publicity.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has pushed for the idea, after an IDF survey of 1,500 soldiers revealed that many felt society didn't appreciate them and that they were not compensated enough.

Last year, the army doubled the monthly wages for combat sol-

diers. A few weeks ago, Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak called for the country to help pay for academic studies for released combat soldiers.

"We have to do something to express society's gratitude for those in combat units. We need them," Shahak said, at a memorial lecture for Moshe Dayan last month.

The scholarships are not restricted to university studies, but can be used for most formal educational programs.

Only soldiers who served three full years in a combat unit will be eligible.

The 50th anniversary celebrations of Israel provide an opportunity for this sort of project, in which all citizens of Israel will be able to support to express appreciation for IDF fighters and help them in their future," said Ofra Strauss-Labat, chairwoman of the fund.

A gala fund-raiser for the scholarship fund is scheduled for January 4 at Tel Aviv's Hechal Hatarbut.

# Lebanese enclave border opened

JEZZINE (Reuters) - The Lebanese army on Friday opened for the first time in 12 years a crossing to Jezzine, a town held by the South Lebanese Army.

Residents from Jezzine and the village of Kafr Falous embraced and sounded car horns after the army, trying to prove it can re-establish authority over south Lebanon, reopened the crossing.

"I am very happy," Yousef Abon Kassem, a priest from Kafr Falous, said. "We thank God and we thank our government for reopening the crossing. We hope that one day there will be peace between all of Lebanon's sects."

The crossing was closed in 1985 when Israel demarcated the security zone, forcing residents of Jezzine - the largest Christian town in south Lebanon - to take a circuitous route to enter the rest of the country.

The Jezzine enclave is formally outside the zone and held by the SLA, led by Christian Gen. Antoine Lahd.



Lebanese wave national flags on Friday at the reopening of the Kafr Falous crossing. (AP)

# Israel awaits Hizbullah on prisoner swap

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Reuters) - Security sources in Israel said yesterday the government had proposed to swap Lebanese prisoners in exchange for the remains of IDF naval commando Itamar Ilyia, but denied a Hizbullah claim that Israel had agreed to that organization's own proposal.

Security sources told Israel Radio last night they are not aware of any breakthrough in a deal for Ilyia's body. They were quoted as saying: "Israel submitted to the government of Lebanon a detailed proposal on the issue of the missing Israeli army soldier Itamar Ilyia and is waiting for the answer of the Lebanese government on the proposal."

Hizbullah Deputy Secretary-General Sheikh Na'eem Kassem said a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) informed the group that Israel had agreed to their latest conditions in swap negotiations.

"We are waiting for an answer from the Israelis on [the details of] our latest proposal that we discussed with the representative of the Red Cross," he told

reporters in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

"He informed us that our conditions that are linked to the remains of the martyrs and the release of prisoners inside Khiam [Prison] and inside occupied Palestine have been agreed upon," Kassem added.

The ICRC is mediating swap negotiations that started in September after 11 IDF commandos were killed during a botched raid north of the security zone.

Israel holds an estimated 50 Lebanese prisoners inside its borders and the South Lebanese Army holds another 125 at Khiam Prison. Israel also holds the remains of the Hizbullah chief's son, Hadi Nasrallah.

Kassem did not give details on Hizbullah's conditions for executing a swap. "The matter is the hands of the Israelis. We are not in a hurry. We are waiting for an answer," he said.

In July 1996, Hizbullah and Israel exchanged the remains of two Israeli soldiers the group had held since 1986 for the bodies of 126 Hizbullah fighters under a German-brokered deal.

# Hefetz takes a parting shot at IDF

The IDF Spokesman yesterday blasted outgoing Israel Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz for claiming the police anti-terror squad is superior to anything the army could put together.

Hefetz, who will retire in 10 days, said the police should take preference over the army when it comes to "national security matters."

"The police anti-terror squad has better capabilities than IDF units. They [the army] are trying to inflate their egos without any foundation," Hefetz was quoted as telling the Tel Aviv Chamber of Commerce on Friday.

IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami issued a statement last night questioning Hefetz's comments and saying the IDF holds the

police anti-terror unit in high esteem.

"But the IDF's special units, against which Hefetz directed his strange criticism, are professional and deserving of greater appreciation than expressed by the inspector-general," the IDF statement said.

The police anti-terror squad and the IDF General Staff reconnaissance unit (Sayeret Matkal) have been rivals for decades. Their rivalry came to a head following the 1994 kidnapping of Cpl. Nachshon Wachman, when the IDF unit was chosen over the police unit, both of which had trained for the job. The IDF unit subsequently failed in the rescue and its commander was killed, along with Wachman and three Hamas terrorists.

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Prime Minister Binyamino Netanyahu's attempts last week to maneuver between National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's and Foreign Minister David Levy's demands to support their redeployment proposals resulted in postponing a decision until mid-January. The Hebrew press focused this week on the struggle that led to the decision not to decide.

"Netanyahu got on his knees this week," writes Ma'ariv's Ben Caspit, in an article entitled, "The name of the game: Survival," referring to the growing threat Netanyahu had seceded from his coalition. "Netanyahu agreed to humiliate himself for the dozenth time, to dance to Sharon's fiddle and to appease Levy, to do the two impossible things simultaneously, and mainly - to stay alive." He adds that Netanyahu eventually chose Sharon, "because his attack is most lethal."

Yedioth Aharonot's Dov Ganchovsky refers to Sharon's angry outburst at Tuesday's cabinet session, waving a threatening finger at Netanyahu and jeopardizing national security. "Sharon is no longer waving a finger at the prime minister," he claims. "Sharon is holding Netanyahu with both hands." He adds that Netanyahu and the Americans know which map he supports, but the only ones who are left in the dark are Israel's citizens and government ministers.

Ha'aretz's Yossi Verter also addresses Sharon's threat, claiming that once Netanyahu heard the "code word: national interest... he disconnected himself from the alliance of Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and skipped to Sharon's corner." He adds that the "Netanyahu-Sharon-Levy triangle is a constant balance of terror, of fear, and settling scores."

"Sharon's finger is both a warning sign and a threat," states Ha'aretz's B.S. Noga, referring to the dangerous concessions that American pressure can force Israel to implement.

Ma'ariv's Shalev concludes that it is a delusion for anyone to think that "Sharon has climbed on a high horse, just because he was the last one to fall at Netanyahu's..." So far Netanyahu continues to tread toward the unknown, and we are all following him."

## Settlers' dilemma

The recent statements by the heads of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza that Netanyahu's policies jeopardize the settlements have highlighted a dilemma: whether they should bring down the Likud government at the risk of this leading to a government headed by Labor.

According to Ma'ariv's Nadav Haetzmi, the leaders unanimously believe that "if Netanyahu, he headed towards redeployment, whatever the political price might be."

Yedioth's Uri Elitzur claims that the council heads are wrong in their supposition that somehow the process can be stopped. "There is no trick, including a government crisis that will be able to buy more than a few weeks' time, followed by yet another decision to be made."

Ma'ariv's Hagai Segal says that, "If some settlements are already doomed, it really doesn't matter to the settlers who the executioner will be," adding that the agony crowd has nothing to lose and could easily decide to bring down the disappointing leadership it helped raise to power.

## Power struggles

The National Religious Party made headlines this week, after the hospitalization of its leader, Minister of Education Zevulun Hammer, created a wave of rumors regarding his health and opened up a battle for succession. "True friendship has never been the strong suit of this party's leadership," claims Avraham Tirush in Ma'ariv. According to Tirush, a serious crisis could develop within the party over political-ideological conflict that could arise once territories are handed to the Palestinians.

According to Yedioth's Nahum Barnea, the clean and honest reputation of the party was shattered this week once members began to exploit Hammer's state of health.

Ha'aretz's Shaul Schiff attacks the press for its irresponsible publishing of a "plot, a tale that has no bearing in reality." He claims that luckily, no MK or minister from the NRP was responsible for the rumors that "do not bring respect to the Israeli press... devastatingly hurting a hospitalized political leader and poisoning the atmosphere around him."

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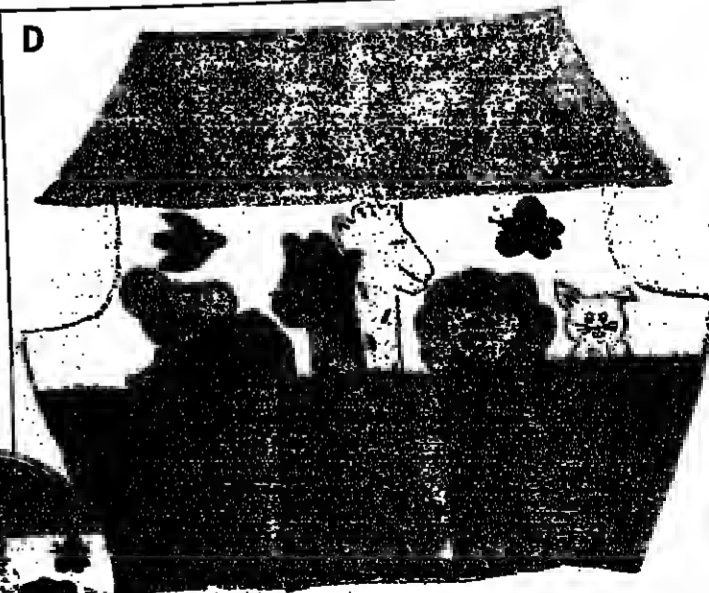


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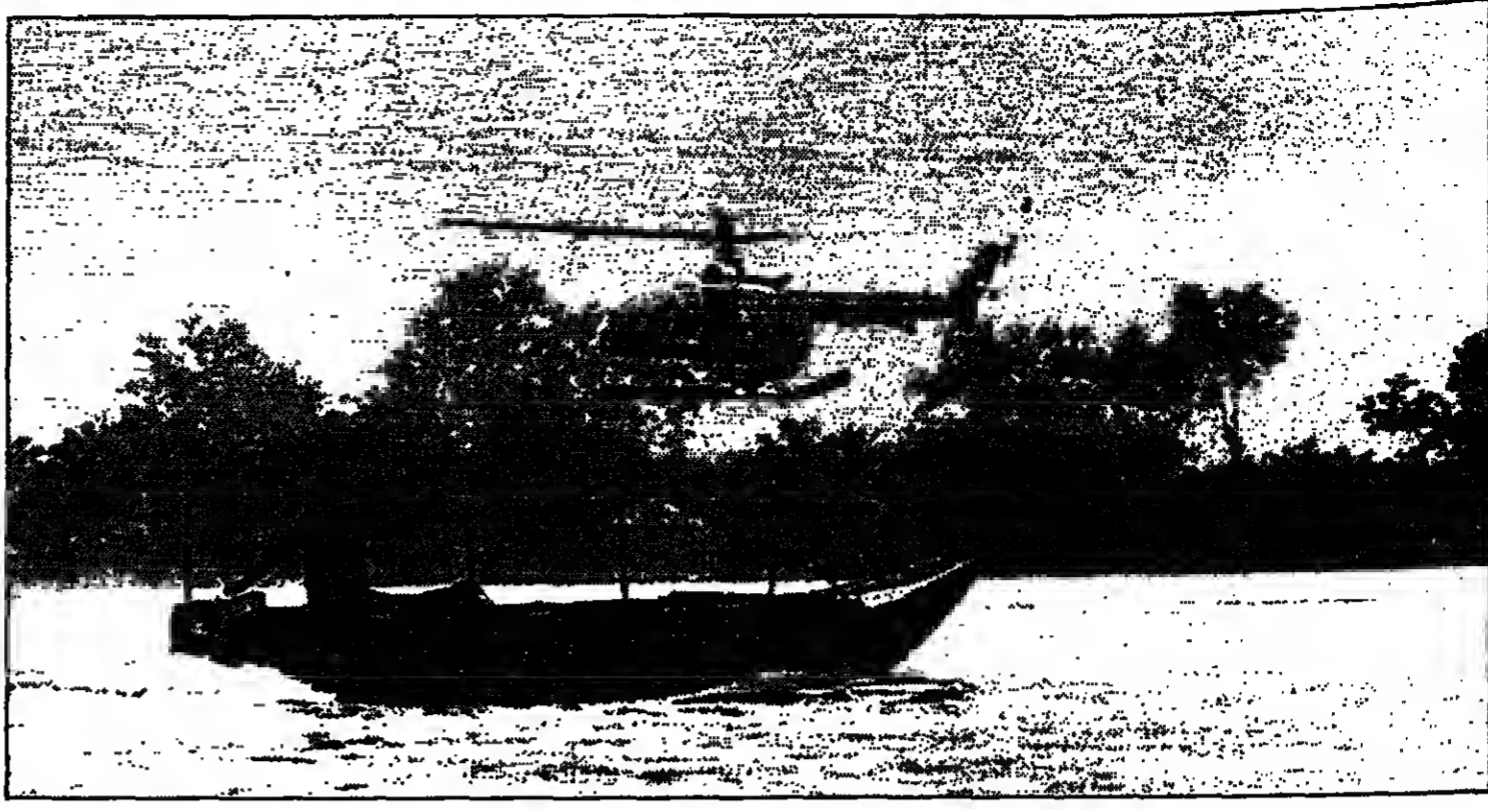
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# 10-month-old Boeing 737 crashes, killing 104



A helicopter searches the crash site of a Singapore SilkAir Boeing-737 plane yesterday over the Musi River in Sumatra. The plane went down Friday with 104 people on board. (AP)

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Rescue workers have found no sign of survivors in Indonesian mangrove swamps, where a Singapore SilkAir Boeing 737-300 crashed with 104 people aboard on Friday, Singapore officials said yesterday.

They said three large pieces of wreckage had been found following the crash that some witnesses on the ground said was preceded by a loud bang or explosion.

"No bodies have been found so far," the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) said in a statement some 24 hours after the SilkAir plane disappeared from radar screens without sending a distress message.

"Neither were any survivors found and there are no indications that there are any survivors," the CAAS said.

Why the 10-month old jet crashed on Friday evening over flat terrain north of Palembang in south Sumatra remained a mystery.

"We can't understand this," said Captain Len McCully, a member of the Singapore Airlines (SIA) board. SilkAir is a regional holiday arm of SIA.

"We don't have any information on what transpired," Communications Minister Mah Bow Tan told reporters. "As far as we know, there were no adverse weather conditions."

Singapore officials said the wreckage was spread over an area of two by four nautical miles. One Indonesian official said witnesses reported the plane exploded in mid-air before it came down.

But SilkAir Chairman Chew Choon Seng dismissed premature speculation. "Typically in accidents and tragedies you will get all sorts of claims which can end up being inaccurate," he told reporters.

Hundreds of people, including Indonesian navy and police divers, probed the muddy waters of the Musi River into which the plane crashed. Both countries have sent naval ships and Singapore has added helicopters to the search effort.

Only "body parts and pieces of aircraft wreckage on land and water" had been found so far from the plane which went down half way through a flight from Jakarta to Singapore, the CAAS statement said.

The debris included three large pieces of the plane, but the "black box" which records flight details and is often a key to determining the cause of crashes was still missing, CAAS officials said.

Most of the 97 passengers were from Singapore, Indonesia and elsewhere in Southeast Asia, but they included Europeans and Americans.

SilkAir said the pilot was 41-year-old Singaporean Tsu Way Ming, who had 6,900 hours of flying experience and joined the airline in 1992.

A team of seven experts from the United States, including representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Boeing and the engine manufacturer were expected to arrive in Palembang late today, a CAAS spokesman said.

A Boeing spokeswoman said in the United States on Friday the company "doesn't speculate on the cause of these incidents."

It was the first crash of a SilkAir plane. Singapore Airlines has never had a crash, Singapore authorities said.

The aircraft was the newest in SilkAir's fleet.

## Gulf summit calls for new era with Iran

KUWAIT (Reuters) - Six Gulf Arab states yesterday opened an annual summit with a Kuwaiti call on powerful neighbor Iran to embark upon a new era in its relations with Gulf countries.

Host Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Sabah urged Tehran to resolve its dispute with Abu Dhabi over three Gulf islands "so we can enter together into a new era in our ties which will contribute to achieving regional hopes for security, stability and development."

The Emir said, while in Tehran this month for an Islamic summit, "I felt that a new era is emerging in neighborly ties built on brotherhood, mutual respect, non-interference, rejection of the use of force or threatening to use it."

The pro-Western Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) summit is due to discuss a wide range of issues, including long-delayed economic and military integration, a common policy towards regional powers Iraq and Iran, terrorism and the stalled Middle East peace process.

Saudi Arabia is the dominant power within the oil-rich GCC which was formed in 1981 along with Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

In a further sign of improved ties, Gulf Arab sources said that Iran's new President Mohammed Khatami and Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi might visit Abu Dhabi after the summit to discuss the dispute over the three Gulf islands.

In varying degrees, most Gulf

Arab states have responded favorably to recent overtures by Khatami to end years of mistrust and tension. Khatami, a moderate Shi'ite Moslem cleric, assumed office in August.

On military integration, Kuwait's Sheikh Jaber said in his opening address the alliance "must stress the realization of the principle of joint defense and the comprehensive development of our military capabilities."

Gulf Arab military officers said earlier that the summit was expected to approve the integration of GCC command, control, communications and intelligence systems - a first step towards a plan to set up a region-wide air defense shield.

The three-day summit is also

expected to approve the setting up of an appointed GCC consultative body aimed at granting ordinary citizens some say in the affairs of the alliance.

Sheikh Jaber said the new body should not become a "center for employment... bogged down in administrative duties" but one which studies and analyzes issues presented by the GCC leaders.

Voicing a commonly held Arab view, the Emir blamed Israel for blocking the Middle East peace process, slamming it for failing to honor peace deals with Palestinians.

He also called on world states to "adopt a strict stand" in the face of Israel, reiterating a GCC call for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

## Wreckage of Ukrainian jet found in Greece

FOTINA, Greece (AP) - Rescue teams yesterday reached the charred wreckage of a Ukrainian passenger jet on a remote slope near the Mount Olympus range and said none of the 70 people aboard survived.

Greek officials also mourned five air force officers killed when their military plane crashed on its way to help the search.

Rescue workers, investigators and reporters who reached the site of Wednesday's crash, said little remained of the Soviet-

designed Yak-42. Its was found in a heavily wooded area at an altitude of about 4,000 feet near this small village, about 40 miles southwest of Salonica.

"There are no survivors. The entire time we were up there we found nothing. You can't even separate the cockpit from the earth, it is one mass," one soldier told reporters as he made his way down the mountain. He did not give his name.

Heavy snow and thick fog frustrated efforts to find the plane, a

search that involved more than 5,000 civilian and military personnel.

The chartered Yak-42, carrying mostly Greek and Ukrainian passengers, crashed while on a second attempt to land at the northern port of Salonica. It had left Odessa, Ukraine, for Salonica.

Greek aviation officials said it appeared that the pilot, who had never flown to Salonica, was disoriented and could have assumed he had cleared the high mountains southwest of the city.

## Jagan sworn in as Guyana president

News agencies

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - Janet Jagan, the American-born Jewish widow of Guyana's leader Cheddi Jagan, was sworn in on Friday to become the first woman president of the former British colony in South America, amid protests from opposition parties.

The 77-year-old grandmother from Chicago, who says she ran for president reluctantly and only to carry on the legacy of her husband who died nine months ago, beat former president Desmond Hoyte, 68.

"Our country has won the acclamation of the world for having assured our complete return to the democratic fold," she said at a formal ceremony in the official residence where her husband



Janet Jagan (AP)

took the same presidential oath five years ago.

Looking relaxed in a navy blue skirt suit, Jagan said: "We are all winners - never

mind the party we voted for or against."

But Hoyte, who has questioned Monday's general election ever since the first returns started to trickle in, has said he will contest the results and that his lawyers are already exploring legal options.

As Jagan was giving her victory speech, two court officers showed up with an injunction to immediately stop the swearing-in ceremony.

The marshalls then traded shoves and shouts with security guards, to the jeers of Jagan's supporters.

Jagan took the court papers herself and tossed them over her right shoulder.

Eleven people were injured when police fired pellets and tear gas at protesters who claimed the election was rigged, police said.

In the country's second democratic election since independence in 1966, Jagan's left-leaning People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/Civic) was declared the winner earlier on Friday after taking over half of the estimated 380,000 votes cast, versus 144,359 for Hoyte's

## Turkey to buy 26 Boeing 737s

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Turkish Airlines signed an agreement on Friday to buy 26 Boeing 737-800 aircraft and took options on 23 more in a deal valued at up to \$2.5 billion, a US official said.

The signing took place at the White House, with Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Vice President Al Gore looking on. Yilmaz announced the deal Thursday, but did not specify how many of the aircraft were firm orders and how many were options, which may or may not be exercised.

Yilmaz was in Washington for a meeting with US President Bill Clinton.

In part, he appeared to be seeking to draw Ankara and Washington closer following the European Union's decision last week to exclude Turkey from a list of countries with which it plans to begin membership talks.

Speaking after a 40-minute White House meeting between the two leaders, US officials said

they expected Turkey to keep seeking EU membership despite its repeated threats to abandon the process after the EU snubbed its application last week.

"We have promoted... the integration of Turkey into Europe and the discussions that they recently had with the European Union ended inconclusively," Gore told reporters after the meeting. "The discussion is one that will continue. There will be another chapter."

Yilmaz confirmed that he has not closed the door on those discussions despite having some disappointments.

In choosing to buy the Boeing aircraft, Turkish Airlines has snubbed rival planes made by Europe's Airbus Industrie consortium.

"Today's agreement is more than a simple commercial transaction," Yilmaz told reporters at the signing ceremony.

"It's a \$2 billion investment in the future of our two nations and

it confirms that Turkey - for decades a key military and strategic ally of the United States - is also becoming... important to US economic interests," he added.

Turkey said earlier this year it was planning to buy 50 civilian aircraft worth a total of \$4 billion from Boeing in an offset agreement under which Turkey would manufacture some of the plane parts. At the time, it said it was also considering offers from Airbus and other companies.

The 737-800, a short-to-medium-range airplane, is a stretched version of the current 737-400 and is capable of carrying 160 to 189 passengers.

"The agreement represents a significant milestone for the Boeing Company," Ron Woodard, president, Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, said in a statement. "It will support Boeing commercial airplane production in the United States, and it strengthens our relationship with a valued, long-time customer."

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## Bodyguard questioned again over Diana accident

PARIS (AP) - Looking weak, limping slightly and still visibly scarred from his injuries, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones was questioned yet again Friday about the crash that killed Princess Diana. But his memory apparently hasn't improved.

"There is nothing new," a source close to the investigation said. "He still doesn't remember the accident."

That conclusion was confirmed by two other sources.

All three, who spoke on condition of anonymity, had seen Judge Herve Stephan's written report of his meeting with Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the August 31 crash.

The bodyguard's lawyer, Christian Curil, would say only the two-hour meeting had "gone well" and that his client was "doing better physically."

Yet Rees-Jones, a husky, 29-year-old former paratrooper, looked grim and unsteady as he entered Paris' main courthouse, trailed by a crowd of photographers and TV cameras.

His eye was blackened, and his face still scarred from the accident that killed Diana, her boyfriend Dodi Fayed, and their driver.

After nearly four months, investigators still have no clear cause for the crash, though they still apparently believe alcohol and speed were the main factors. Driver Henri Paul was drunk and

believed to have been driving at a very high speed.

Investigators also are trying to find a white Fiat Uno that may have been involved. Physical evidence indicates the Mercedes sideswiped a small white car just before losing control and crashing into a pillar in the Pont de l'Alma traffic tunnel.

A legal source said Friday that a new witness was interviewed on Nov. 25 by Judge Marie-Christine Devidal. The witness described seeing a small white car in front of the Mercedes just after the crash. He said he saw a man standing outside the car, speaking on a cellular telephone, and soon after he saw two men, who had been in the vehicle, running quickly out of the tunnel.

The witness, whose name was not provided by the source, heard the Mercedes' horn blaring, the source said, meaning he was at the scene in the first moments - before rescuers arrived to move driver Paul's body off the horn.

It wasn't clear why the witness had come forward so long after the accident.

Rees-Jones has struggled with a memory loss since the accident, and even took a trip back to the tunnel in November. But that doesn't appear to have jogged his memory.

In two previous meetings, he's told investigators he remembers getting into the Mercedes at the Ritz Hotel and being followed by

paparazzi, but doesn't recall the actual crash.

He recently joined the investigation as a civil party, meaning he has access to documents in the case, and can sue for damages if anyone is ever found responsible.

Other civil parties are Rees-Jones's boss - Mohammed Al Fayed, father of Dodi - and representatives of Diana's family, the Spencers.

Much of Friday's two-hour meeting was spent explaining to Rees-Jones his rights as a civil party, the sources said.

Afterwards, he was spirited through a back entrance to evade reporters.

He rode in a convoy of two black Mercedes - rented, according to the drivers, from the same company from which Diana's Mercedes came that fatal night. They whisked him back to the airport, where he took a private plane back to England.

One of the photographers vying for a view of Rees-Jones Friday was Nikolas Arsov, who is still under investigation in the crash.

Arsov, of the Sipa agency, plus eight other photographers and a press motorcyclist, haven't been formally charged. Many expect them to be soon cleared of any involvement.

Arsov said he was "just doing my job" by continuing to cover the story.

"If they send me to a story, I do it," he said.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "ماتة امير لاندون"

## Yiddish festival to tour the country



By GREER FAY CASHMAN

**L**ast December, when Yiddishist Ella Gaffen launched a week-long Yiddish festival at the Nevech Ilan resort hotel where she is the sales and marketing manager, she was pleasantly surprised by the local response. People came from all over the country to the Yiddish cabaret night and were eager to have a similar form of entertainment throughout the year.

Gaffen, who was recently elected chairperson of the Yiddish Dor Hemshech ("Next Generation") group, was all set to turn the festival into an annual event, but she didn't realize until she became involved with Dor Hemshech what a craving there is for Yiddish all year round.

Once the upcoming second annual Yiddish festival is out of the way, she plans to organize a series of Yiddish musical and cultural events, not just in Nevech Ilan, but in every city and town in which there is a sizeable Yiddish-speaking population.

At the moment she has her hands full putting the final touches to the festival, which has aroused considerable interest via the Internet — <http://wrlid.std.cnn/~yv/mcndele-hrncurele.html> (Gaffen made her first Yiddish Internet connections last year, and this year made even more.)

Although people will be coming from several countries, she says, attendance will be much lower than initially anticipated because foreign tourists are bypassing Israel this year.

"The Yiddish festival is going to be an annual tradition," she promises. "People know that there's a Yiddish festival in Israel in the last week of December, so if they don't make it this year, they'll come next year or the year after."

The festival, which begins next Sunday and concludes on January 3, is more than just entertainment. Like a convention, it includes tours around the country and visits to historical sites, museums and other places of interest. The difference is that the guides will all be speaking Yiddish.

Whereas most other tourist groups visit the bared neighborhood of Mea She'arim in Jerusalem, to witness a lifestyle remote from the 20th century, participants in the Yiddish festival are going there because Mea She'arim is one of the few places in Israel where children converse in Yiddish at home, at school and in the street.

To anyone who may doubt that Yiddish still has a future, Mea She'arim provides contrary evidence.

But Mea She'arim, according to Gaffen, is not an isolated example. There seems to be a Yiddish revival in many parts of the Jewish world, she says, noting that classes and retreats are springing up all over the place, in addition to Yiddish-language projects at Columbia University in the US, Oxford University in England and several other institutes of higher learning.

Thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union, to the surprise of Jews in other communities where they've settled over the past decade or so, speak excellent Yiddish, and are making an impact on Yiddish culture both in Israel and the Diaspora.

In Canada, where Gaffen was

raised, there's a Mamloshen organization in Montreal and a Friends of Yiddish organization in Toronto.

When Gaffen, during a recent visit to her family, asked the Canadian Yiddish organizations for help with the festival, the reaction was negative. "Why should we help," she was asked, "if Israel pushed Yiddish away and tried to get rid of it?"

Gaffen's answer was that in the beginning this had to be the policy so that Hebrew could come back into its own glory, but Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people is the most logical place in which Yiddish should be preserved and nourished "so that we can keep its vitality."

Many non-Jews are learning Yiddish to get a better appreciation of Yiddish literature and of pre-Holocaust Jewry, Gaffen points out, adding that among the festival participants will be a group of non-Jewish Yiddish students from Germany, some of whom were here last year.

The festival offers something for everyone: Yiddish prose and poetry readings; anecdotes by master storyteller Yossel Birstein, reminiscences about the good old days by a veteran Jerusalemite; recollections in Yiddish of illegal immigration by Murray Greenfield, who has told the story many times in English; variety and musical performances by Mendy Kahan, Nehama Hendel, Ruth Levin, Nitzta Tsvi and Benny Hendel; simulation games in Yiddish with Leah Skiva; and a Shabbat celebration almost entirely in Yiddish.

The guide accompanying participants on most of the tours will be Asher Haimovitz, the cantor of Jerusalem's Yeshurun Synagogue, who in all probability will relieve the boredom of the bus journeys with bursts of Yiddish song. It doesn't take much to get him started, say his admirers. All he needs is an appreciative audience.

The participants will also visit the Knesset, where they will be given a guided tour in Yiddish by former Speaker Labor MK Shevah Weiss.

One of the more serious events at the festival will be a late afternoon session on December 30 at Yad Vashem where there will be a review of Holocaust Yiddish literature, a lecture on Yiddish culture in Poland and a recital of Yiddish songs written and performed during the Holocaust.

Gaffen, who is negotiating till the last minute to expand the festival program, says that there will be several surprises.

# King saved by his court



**W** JAZZ

By David Isaacson

**B**.B. King just asks to be damned with faint praise. The great guitarist and singer has for years been putting on foot-tapping R&B shows which don't rise above the pleasant. If you saw him at the Sultan's Pool in 1981 and at the Jerusalem International Convention Center (Binyanei Ha'azna) last year, you'd have realized that nothing much had changed, though guest appearances by David Broza and Ronnie Peterson did liven up the latter gig.

He doesn't push himself, his vaulted love of Lucille — his guitar — sounds sane, and the blues become akin to a cabaret act.

Yet who but King could attract the plethora of big names who grace the 17 tracks — one guest act

Leon Russell's excellent "Hummingbird." Heavy D takes our man right out of himself on the delicious, witty rap number, "Keep It Coming"; Willie Nelson transports us to the courtier's West on his own "Night Life." Clapton is the other half of a hot guitar duet on "Rock Me, Baby"; Hucknall's high voice complements the King growl on Percy Mayfield's classic, "Please Send Me Someone to Love." And not even a subdued Tracy Chapman mars an irresistible version of the old King favorite, "The Thrill is Gone." As for the Stones, on their first recorded appearance since the superb *Bridges to Babylon*, they sound a bit lackluster, but Mick does get to play the harmonica.

This is a remarkable compilation in which even the backing musicians, especially the horns, excel. But be warned: A number of tracks fade out, some in mid-jam.

"WORLD MUSIC" has become a catch-all genre for virtually anything that's not sung in English or which tends to be either ethnic (something which goes beyond four beats in a bar) or ambient (doesn't have any beats in any bars). Any number of Western musicians (Paul Simon, Sting, Peter Gabriel) have leapt onto the bandwagon in attempts to revive flagging careers.

Less famous but more authentically inspired is the band Night Ark. Three of Night Ark's four members are expatriate Armenians whose music refers lovingly to their cultural roots. *In Wonderland* — an appropriately named melange of diverse melodies and rhythms, strange time signatures and unusual instruments — well represents Armenia's own fusion of cultures. "Going with Abandon" evokes the sound of a busy Arab market, the plaintive "Hera Merter" sounds like a Turkish moral fable. Elsewhere, supplicatory background voices invoke a spirituality all the purer for being nonsectarian.

The band is led by the American-born Ara Dinkjian, who plays Middle Eastern string instruments such as the oud, cumbus, saz and kanun in addition to the synthesizer. Most of the Western

elements are provided by pianist Armen Donelian, whose beautiful solo on the romantic "Lisa" would stand out on any disc. There are also traces of Al DiMeola and Joe Zawinul, with whom Turkish-born percussionist Arto Tunçboyacıyan has played. (Donelian has been a sideman with Sonny Rollins, and bassist Marc Johnson has played with Bill Evans and Stan Getz.)

In *Wonderland* has a sweet and fetching vivacity which takes it into a realm not often reached in world music. And the melody on "They Love Me 15 Feet Away" is pretty and haunting enough to stay with you all day.

- DEUCES WILD**  
B.B. King (Hed Arts)
- IN WONDERLAND**  
Night Ark (Hed Arts)

## Ankri makes you want to cry

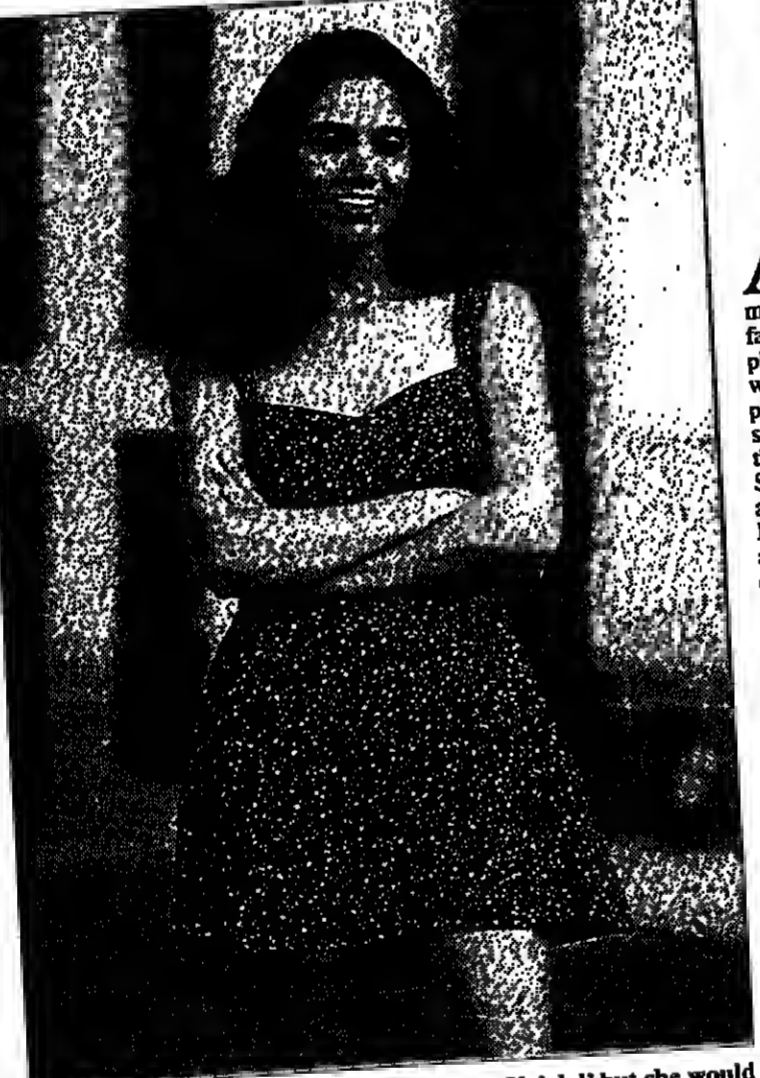


**Sabra Sounds**

By Emily Hauser

**E**ti Ankri is very talented, but not exactly lighthearted. While *Lamrot Uviglal* has some fun rhythms and is certainly less sorrowful than her work has been in the past, the casual listener should not approach Ankri's latest album in the hope of finding snappy, feel-good tunes.

Indeed, even the snappiest of the songs, the radio-friendly "Nilkah Mimeni Sod" ("A Secret's Been Taken From Me") contains lines like, "We hugged each other hard /



Eti Ankri wrote all the songs on 'Lamrot Uviglal' but she would benefit from collaborating with other artists. (Moshe Stai)

**LAMROT UVIGLAL**  
(“Nonetheless And Regardless”)  
Eti Ankri  
(NMCC)  
★★★

Until it really hurt." The title track may be a love song, but in it Ankri seems unsure as to whether love is a good thing. "This love / When it comes back / Will make the light / Overflow its banks / And we won't be able to stop again / Like alcohol / Rolling around in a drunk's throat."

Then there are the songs about domestic violence, children damaged by what they see in the adult world, and Ankri's take on the state of the nation: "There's no king / And no prophet / And if you're the messenger / Who's going to bring peace?"

## Maestro says young violinists lack soul

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

**A**s a child growing up in Dresden, Henry Meyer caused to play chamber music with his father and other family members and friends. He played the first violin but when he was 10, "one of those whom I played with and who was like a surrogate father to me suggested that I play the second violin in Schubert's A minor quartet. I agreed but played it like a Kreutzer etude. He was very angry, accusing me of being interested only in technique and not the music itself. He even said he didn't want to see me again."

Today, at 74, Meyer seems to be accusing young violin students of the same faults. "There is talent galore out there. You can stand there and be jealous of what these kids can provide, but what is it all for? Why are they doing it? Is there any soul behind it? The answer is usually negative."

Meyer says that the incident in his childhood "left a lasting effect on me. But you must remember that in contrast to the violinists I'm talking about, I was only 10 years old."

Meyer recalls that "when I first picked up a violin at age six, I knew this was what I would do for life." But when he was 13, the Nazis expelled all Jewish children from the schools. "From that time on I had to learn it all by myself. And later in my life, when we played in camps all over the USA, I was always saddened by the fact that I could never have such an education."

At 15, Meyer was imprisoned and transferred to Buchenwald. After his release, he joined the Jewish Kulturbund Orchestra in Berlin. In 1943 he was deported in Auschwitz. Eventually he was sent back to Buchenwald and managed to escape. "All my life I knew I wanted to play the violin,

but after those three years I did not know if I still could. But then I spent three years of studies in Paris and it all came back."

In 1948 Meyer moved to the US, where he joined the renowned LaSalle Quartet. "We played together for 40 years. Now that I have retired, I do not miss playing, I have played enough."

Meyer is in Jerusalem to teach master classes at the Jerusalem Music Center. He will also return to the JMC in the summer, when he will be in charge of the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Encounters in which young professional chamber-music ensembles will be able to hone their craft with some of the greatest experts in the field.

With regard to why young musicians should play chamber music, he says, "It has the richest literature in existence. Composers have emerged at their very best when composing string quartets." But, Meyer adds, the life of a string player is a sad one. "You study all your life to fulfill your parents' ambitions. Once you have succeeded, you must get a good instrument, which costs a lot of money. And then you usually have to join an orchestra, which means the conductor tells you what to play and you how to play it. You are, within an instant, reduced from being an artist to being nothing more than a worker in a factory. Only chamber music can help you get out of this."

When it comes to teaching young musicians, Meyer says, "You have to show them how to hold to their own imagination. You can show them many things, but then it is up to them to use it."

Henry Meyer teaches master classes at the Jerusalem Music Center today. Admission free.

## TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

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#5	4	VIA	SPICE WORLD
#6	10	4	EVATFA SHEL MAMTAK
#7	2	FINLEY QUAKE	EVATAR BANAI
#8	7	SPICE GIRLS	VEVY BEST
#9	16	17	HITMAN 8
#10	3	20	BACKSTREET BOYS
#11	4	4	URBAN HYMNS
#12	7	16	RAPBODY OVERTURE
#13	9	9	INTA OMRI
#14	3	3	
#15	17	3	
#16	18	3	

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Q: Louis Lohav, the vocal producer on Eti Ankri's *Lamrot Uviglal*, engineered which two classic American rock albums?  
A: *The Wild, the Innocent and the E Street Shuffle* and *Born to Run* by the ultimate American rocker, Bruce Springsteen.

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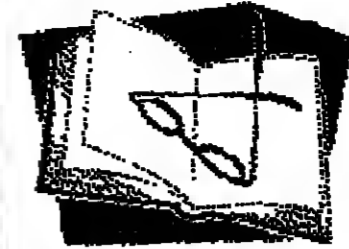
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# The Chunnel challenge

## Book Review



By Bill Roorbach

**THE CHUNNEL: The Amazing Story of the Undersea Crossing of the English Channel**, by Drew Fetherston (Times Books, \$35, 404 pp.)

In *The Chunnel*, Drew Fetherston takes on a big subject in fact, an enormous one: the construction of the Channel Tunnel, which now quite successfully (technically, if not financially) runs beneath the English Channel from England to France and back again, carrying long trains on continual runs.

A project like the Brooklyn Bridge is amazing enough; that type of engineering seems the work of a bygone era, a time before income taxes and trade unions, when banks took big risks on gargantuan dreams, and dreamers were wealthy enough to throw their own money into the deal as well. But the channel tunneling took place in the last 10 years, and the project doesn't just bridge a little river - it crosses under a body of water 21 miles wide.

Fetherston starts at what seems like the end, until you think about it: A French tunnel, chosen by lot, shakes hands with his English counterpart through the hole that appears when two tunnels meet. A heroic moment, the kind of drama books are made of.

Many pages later we will learn about all the men lined up behind the symbolic workers: much grand maneuvering has gone into the make-up of the queue of bankers and engineers and government people anxious to share the historic moment they've suffered for, anxious to be among the first to cross to France or England by land. Or through land, is more like it.

More than 600 men worked in the tunnel. The number above ground - politicians, local protesters, bankers, designers, railroad people, engineers, on and on - is many more than that. And the tunnelers' handshake isn't the end of anything. There's still the railway to construct, still problems of drainage to overcome, still political battles (Will rabid foxes from France cross to the British Isles? Will legions of French or other-wise foreign troops capture the tunnel and its mouth and mount an attack on Mother England?), still enormous and enormously daunting economic problems to conquer.

Fetherston, who is a reporter and columnist for *Newsday*, does a fine job with the history of the concept of a channel tunnel. The idea goes back a couple of hundred years, to a time when capture of the whole tunnel by one side or

the other really would have meant attack unprotected by the stormy waters of the channel. The debate that begins then continues till the day the modern tunnel is opened.

Over the years, bridges were proposed, and sunken tubes. Nutty drawings of air shafts and drilling platforms abounded. Railways gained the upper hand in the end, but some argued for a car tunnel, ignoring the fact that many drivers go bonkers in very long tunnels and simply have to stop. Ferry interests sabotaged parliamentary debate in England. Banking interests put the microscope to every engineering claim. The French were disdainful of the English obsession with safety. The English were contemptuous of the fastidious engineering of the French.

Fetherston makes sure the reader enters the battle for the modern tunnel well-educated in the problems it posed: Is the geological make-up of the channel bed workable or will faults cause leaks powered endlessly by the channel above? How will the two countries divide the cost and labor, and how will political strife be tamed? How does one design a tunnel to avoid the piston effect of trains pushing through, compressing columns of air? What if there is a fire on a train? With only one track in each direction, how to schedule faster, high-tech trains with slower, older trains? How does one finance a project that costs billions of pounds? And on and on.

The tunnel project used up the energy of dozens of managers. Coalitions of scores of banks formed and failed, re-formed and failed again. Votes and meetings and back-room deals never stopped as the tunnelers made their way toward each other under the water, the French in a squeaky clean environment like a good factory - something out of Jules Verne - the English in a drippy, gritty, seat-of-the-pants coal mine - something out of Dickens.

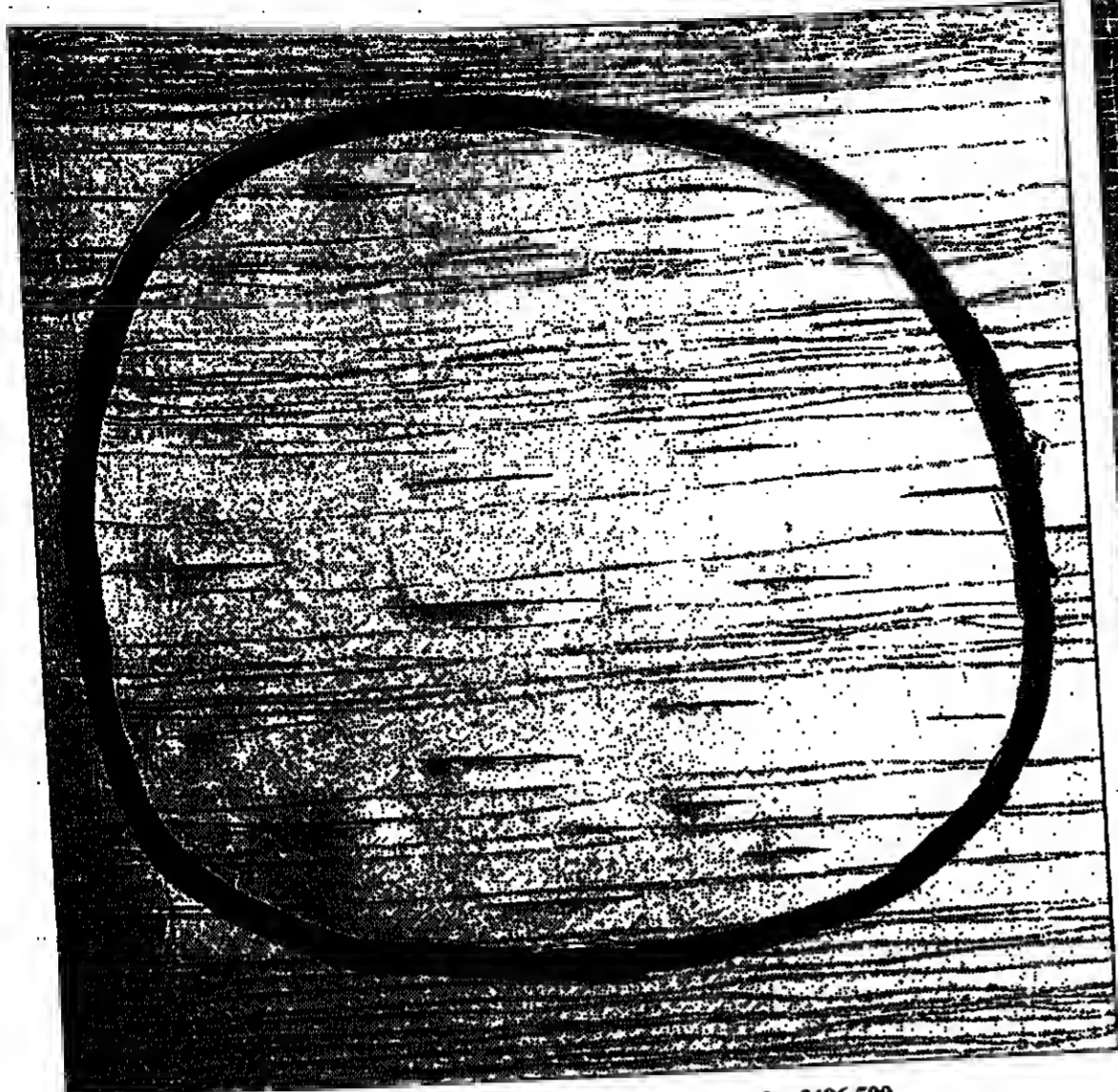
Fetherston does a fine job of getting all this riot of human effort to make sense. And even if he traces the banking maneuvers with such detail that it gets smothering, the engineering and actual tunneling provide riveting reading, probably because they provide the most interesting characters. And in a book about such a complicated and technical undertaking, characters are a blessing.

The challenge for Fetherston is to find someone who stays with the project long enough to make a useful character out of. There's no one great hero here. People come and go so fast that the reader begins to get dizzy. Which calm French director is this? Which irascible Englishman?

In the end, I was ready to cheer and celebrate when the first train got through.

I can only guess how very difficult researching and writing this book was; it must have been nearly as much work as the tunnel itself.

Thankfully, Fetherston gives us an account that is well worth our readerly burrowing. (Newsday)



Lucio Fontana: 'Laguna di Venezia,' sold by Sotheby's London for £496,500.

# Bidders battled for Bernstein's belongings

THE SALE at Sotheby's New York on December 11 of the contents of the late Leonard Bernstein's home soared to a total of over \$1.1m., more than double its estimate. Bernstein's autographed Bosendorfer grand piano, the top lot, went for a staggering \$387,500 after a long tussle between a phone bidder and a couple from Potomac, Maryland. The phone bidder won, but the underbidders were successful with another lot: a simple wood-and-cork baton from Bernstein's last Carnegie Hall concert, for which they paid \$12,650. It had an estimate of just \$150.

An ivory, gold, ruby and diamond-mounted baton that once belonged to Toscanini went for 18 times its estimate, at \$18,400. Top price for a painting was the \$74,000 paid for Konstantin Somov's oil of a carnival scene that had once belonged to Serge Koussevitzky. An indifferent portrait of Bernstein by Larry Rivers, estimated at best at \$5,000, went for \$17,250, while Leroy Neiman's Bernstein, with an estimate of barely \$2,000, brought \$6,325.

## AT THE AUCTIONS

With the possible exception of the Somov, none of these lots were bought for their intrinsic value. The Bernstein charisma was still at work.

The sale was consigned by Bernstein's three children, with proceeds going to the Bernstein Education Through the Arts Fund.

Following this column's accounts of the sale of Holocaust survivor Edith Hahn's archive by Sotheby's London, the Laniado Hospital has told *The Jerusalem Post* it wants to offer Hahn a free cataract operation. As readers will recall, Hahn survived in Hitler's Germany after being helped to obtain an Aryan identity and marrying a Nazi Party member. This man and three other Germans risked their lives to help her. The story is documented in her wartime correspondence, sold with her papers for over \$150,000 at Sotheby's.

The letters detail this remarkable

story: how she averted Auschwitz, in which her mother perished, and escaped to Vienna, where she obtained a false Aryan identity from a sympathetic woman named Christine Denner. There, she married a man who was a Nazi party member, with whom she bore a daughter. She later divorced him and married a German refugee. After obtaining her documentation to become a judge. In 1984, after her husband's death, Hahn came to Israel. A year later, Christine Denner was honored as a Righteous Gentile.

Hahn's archive is being presented to Washington's Holocaust Museum.

AN AUCTION of works by Israelis from the holdings of the Safed Artists' Colony will take place at Safed's Ruth-Rimon Hotel on December 27. The works are on display at the Artists' Colony general exhibition. A catalog can be obtained by calling (06) 692-0087 or by faxing (06) 692-0081. Bids in sealed envelopes will be accepted in advance.

Among the artists represented,



Jean-Michel Basquiat: 'Red Savoy,' which set an auction record for this artist at £353,500.



Leonard Bernstein's Bosendorfer piano sold at Sotheby's New York for an amazing \$387,500, many times its intrinsic value.

some no longer living, are Frenkel, Holzman, Giladi, Tziffer, Romano-Glitzstein, Rosenthalis, Halvani, Baser, Raviv, Roth, Ekstein, and Shafat.

AN ABSTRACTION by Lucio Fontana (1899-1968) representing the lagoon of Venice topped Sotheby's London sale of Contemporary Art this month, going for nearly £0.5m. (\$820,250).

Fontana, the best known of Italy's minimalists, was famed for slicing into or puncturing the surfaces of his canvases or paper. But this was more than gimmick; he was blessed with an uncanny

sense of composition. Both works by Fontana sold at this sale were composed of slashes, but the lagoon picture had them encircled by a Zen-like loosely painted oval. A small slashed Fontana appears in the current Small Format show at the Israel Museum.

This sale also set a world auction record for a painting by the late maverick outsider Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-88), when his acrylic and oilstick canvas, *Red Savoy*, went for £353,500. This artist - and reported AIDS victim - has become something of a cult figure and his work is, to my mind, incredibly overpriced.

# Sewage sludge to sugar cane

## Earthly Concerns



By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

India's eroded hillsides are being reforested by a recent innovation that recycles three notoriously hard-to-dispose-of items, to create new soil for growing trees and other crops.

By mixing sewage sludge, fly ash (the residue remaining after coal is burned) and composted weeds, agronomists have produced a highly fertile soil-like mixture that, when plowed into eroded soils, produces growth, which they report is many times better than what is achieved by fertilizing the same soil with chemical fertilizers.

The technique, first tried on a small scale in Canada, is now being applied to vast hillside areas in India where the soil has, over the years, become so eroded that it is almost useless.

The project managers say that in some areas, new forestation grew several times as fast as growth produced by conventional techniques. The sewage sludge and the composted weeds provide large amounts of nitrates, while the fly ash is rich in minerals such as zinc, cadmium, cobalt and magnesium. Combining them in proper proportions creates a matrix that provides everything the plants need.

But correct proportions is the critical factor. If fly ash is added too liberally, the heavy metals can build up in the stems and prevent



New fertilizing techniques enable farmers in India to reclaim otherwise eroded land. (World Bank)

the plants from absorbing enough water and the other nutrients. For this reason the new material has until now only been used on crops that are used for fibers, fuel and that are used for building materials. It has been especially successful for growing trees such as acacia and gum and for bamboo and cotton.

But even these crops are a boon for India, where wood is the principal fuel for millions and where there is a dearth of even the simplest lumber for building and furniture construction. Indeed, the

demand for fuel wood is the prime reason for the disappearance of the trees and the resultant erosion of the soil.

But the researchers have refined the matrix to the point where there is no reason not to use it for forage crops, another item in short supply in a country where oxen are still the principal working animal and mode of transport.

Remarkable success has been reported in growing sugar cane in soil that was previously too poor to support any crop at all. The first

experiments with vineyards and orchards for soft fruits began two years ago, and by now the results are plain. India is, for the first time in centuries, producing a rather impressive crop of soft fruit.

In addition to its manifest usefulness as a soil additive, producing the matrix performs an important recycling function. Sewage sludge and fly ash are two products that until now have been both useless and expensive to dispose of, while bulky weeds tax the disposal facilities of many areas.

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# One-stop health shopping for the elderly

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Whoever is fortunate enough to grow old (consider the alternative!) will likely face a slew of red tape and a hodgepodge of different jurisdictions and requirements if institutionalization is required.

This statement is true not only for Israel — where our national health insurance system is starving for funds and is upheaval — but also in Canada, which has quite a healthy universal health insurance system and no private medicine.

Prof. Howard Bergman, director of geriatric medicine at McGill University and director of its affiliated Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, was invited by the Health Ministry to present his model to reduce the fragmentation of geriatric care. Bergman, who speaks some Hebrew and spent a month on sabbatical here two years ago to study our health system, believes that his model of "one-stop-shopping health care for the elderly" could be adapted to Israel as well. He was here recently to present his ideas — out-

lined in a recent *Canadian Medical Association Journal* article — to Health Ministry associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev and various hospital audiences.

In an interview, Bergman explains that Canada's health system has suffered from large deficits and has even closed seven hospitals in the last few years. Growing costs have led to the push for more treatment in the community instead of more-expensive hospitals. The development of new technologies, such as laparoscopic surgery, from which recovery is quicker, and intravenous pumps that can be operated at home, have facilitated this change.

While most elderly people are healthy and able to function independently, about a fifth to a quarter of those over 65 have some form of disability, especially the "old-old" over 75. They are likely to suffer from acute as well as chronic conditions — congestive heart failure, Parkinson's disease, rheumatoid arthritis or dementia, for example — that can isolate them socially.

"A 45-year-old who gets pneu-

monia will either get better in a few days or die, but an 85-year-old will get better, die or suffer a serious decline in functioning, requiring a long hospital stay or home help," Bergman says. "This is where the complications begin. Both Israel and Canada have a network of social and medical geriatric services from government and voluntary organizations, but they are not coordinated and in many cases, their criteria for helping are contradictory." Bergman adds that the system suffers from a fragmentation of services, negative incentives and the absence of accountability. "No one authority is responsible for what happens, and old people and their families fall between the cracks."

Dr. Mark Clarfield, director of the Health Ministry's division of geriatric services (and a former Canadian) adds that for the frail elderly to get help, separate forms are required from his ministry, the National Insurance Institute (NII), the health funds and the municipalities, all of which have different criteria. If he is unable to perform a certain list of daily activities, such

as washing, feeding or dressing himself, the person comes under the authority of one jurisdiction, while if he can't perform a longer list, he is under the aegis of another.

Israel is, however, fortunate that its small size facilitates efforts by adult children to help their elderly parents, and our temperate climate makes it easier for the frail elderly to get out than in snow-bound Canadian winters. Israel also has the innovative Yad Sarah, for lending medical equipment and supplying various home services, plus Eshel-JDC and the Brookdale Institute for planning and initiating programs for the elderly. It also has only one agency (the NII) collecting health taxes and four health funds with a set basket of health services (at least for now).

In Canada, agencies involved in care for this sector include day hospitals, homecare and volunteer agencies, day centers, acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, old-age homes and family and specialist physicians.

In 1995, Bergman's McGill University Research Group on Integrated Services for the Elderly received funding from Quebec's Ministry of Health and Social Services to develop a model of integrated care for the frail elderly (called SIPA, a French acronym). His team prepared plans for a two-year demonstration project costing Can\$7.5 million (NIS 17 million) and including 700 frail elderly.

Bergman's community system model is based on primary care, with one authority responsible for a full range of health and social services for a defined population. It would provide case management, with clinical responsibility for the entire range of services provided. The public purse would pay for it on a capitation (per head) basis and services would be publicly managed. All primary and secondary medical and social services, prevention, rehabilitation, medication, technical aids and long-term care would be obtainable via a single authority in the community. An interdisciplinary team of health and social service professionals would evaluate patients' needs and deliver services. They would also try to rehabilitate patients, prevent their further decline in function and encourage the family to participate in care and in taking decisions affecting care. The elderly would enroll in the SIPA center within



About a quarter of those over 65 have some form of chronic disability, which can isolate them socially. (R. Nowitz)



The Canadian model proposes one authority responsible for a full range of health and social services, rather than the fragmentation of services which exists now. (Isaac Herzog)

their geographical area, but could be transferred to a neighboring SIPA center if dissatisfied; thus, the centers would aim to please or lose funding for fleeing patients, and they would not be allowed to overrun their budgets.

Bergman notes that it's rare for proposed changes in health care to be preceded by a demonstration project (Israel's national health insurance, for example, went into effect without any trial to learn from mistakes). "We don't have a target date for implementation in a part of Montreal, but we are guardedly optimistic that we'll be

able to launch our pilot program. Then we'll set up control groups to compare how our system functions, how patients benefit and how costs go to frail elderly in the existing system."

Clarfield adds that "no technique can be wholly transplanted from one country to another. There have to be adaptations. But we are going to watch Prof. Bergman's experiment closely. There are important elements that could be translated to Israel, too, will work to reduce fragmentation in geriatric services."

although this does not mean we want to extend life artificially."

In the meantime, the Health Ministry's geriatric services division has taken a first step to unify forms and assistance criteria for the NII, the ministry and other authorities dealing with the elderly. "Geriatricians," Clarfield concludes, "are optimists by nature. That's because we deal with a population who present major problems and we try to help them function better. So I am optimistic that Israel, too, will work to reduce fragmentation in geriatric services."

## Lucrative market in Russia for American cigarettes

By ANNA DOLGOV

Skyscrapers, white sandy beaches, gorgeous women smiling seductively as they step out of stretch limos — the billboard images are all over Russia's streets. But the slogans like "Total Freedom" or "Rendezvous with America" aren't advertising foreign travel destinations or wilderness adventure clubs. They're touting American cigarette brands like Winston and Marlboro.

With fewer people smoking in the US and Europe, Western tobacco companies are expanding aggressively in the east to make up for lost sales at home. And American cigarette manufacturers have found a lucrative market in Russia, where an estimated 50 percent to 80 percent of people are smokers, consumers are hungry for all things Western and tobacco taxes are low.

Nearly nonexistent controls on advertising have given cigarette manufacturers a free hand to use sales and marketing methods that draw frowns in other countries. As far as advertising is concerned, almost anything goes in Russia. Tobacco firms stage parties for Russian teenagers, offering free entry if the partygoer buys one or more packs of cigarettes. At shows and presentations, such as a fashion extravaganza held in Moscow recently, young women with trays of cigarettes walk around the audience offering free smokes.

"In all civilized countries they passed this stage a long time ago, and have long since established restrictions on the advertising of tobacco products," said Tatyana Kamardina, senior research at the Institute for Prophylactic Medicine in Moscow. Russia actually has relatively strict advertising laws on the books — but no functioning legal or monitoring system to enforce them.

TV tobacco ads were banned in 1995. But direct marketing and billboard advertising have increased to make up for the loss. "Tobacco companies have a huge amount of money, and they spend it on converting people," Kamardina said. A former party organizer, Maximilian Friedman, said his experience with teenagers buying cigarettes to get in for free was so unnerving that he quit his job.

But while doctors and health-minded individuals may protest, others consider smoking a relatively innocent indulgence, especially compared to the binge drinking, poor diet and frequent accidents that kill many Russians.

Rampant unemployment and low wages — which frequently go unpaid for as long as six months — also make the hazards of smoking fade compared to the struggle of getting by from one day to the next. Although the harmful effects of smoking are well known in Russia, they haven't really struck a chord in a country where most people are just looking for some comfort in their lives.

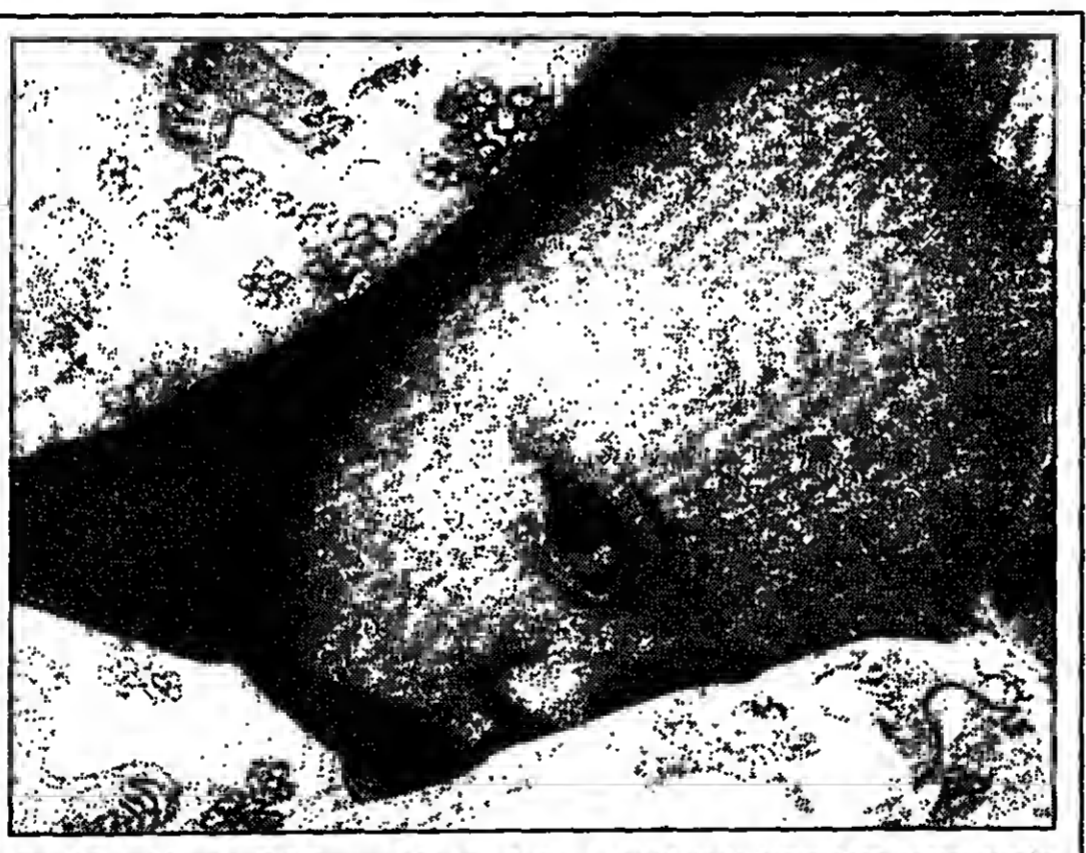
"Smoking in Russia is more than smoking," said comedian Igor Ugolnikov on his recent late-night TV show. "It's not about the ruinous craving for tobacco but about the constant stress and upheavals. You open a fresh newspaper and immediately you open a new pack. And like that, on the nerves, day after day, pack after pack. Here, just recently, during the stock crisis, one banker got so nervous he smoked a whole stack of dollars by mistake."

Russians buy more than 11 billion packs of cigarettes a year, of which 4 billion are imports, said Vladimir Aksyonov, spokesman for British American Tobacco in Moscow. He could not say how much the market was worth, but cigarette prices rarely exceed \$2 a pack.

"In Russia, the tendency is clearly in favor of American blends," Aksyonov said.

The only visible signs of resistance to the incursion of American tobacco have come from Russian cigarette makers, which are unhappy about foreigners reaping profits on their turf. Russia's leading tobacco company recently started putting up billboards adorned with the slogan "Strike Back" and a picture of Yava cigarettes hovering like a spaceship over New York.

While the companies fight over sales, more and more Russians are picking up the habit. Surveys indicate the number of smokers is growing 1-2 percent a year even as the overall population declines. Between 40-80% of Russian males are smokers, according to various polls cited by Kamardina, and about 50% of females use cigarettes. (Associated Press)



Careful watching and follow-up of ear infections in babies is better than automatically giving antibiotics. (Lisa Pleskovi)

## When infection strikes baby, don't rush to use antibiotics

Health Scan



Just the sight of a baby crying and pulling on its ear is enough to send parents to the doctor for a middle-ear examination and antibiotics. But now researchers increasingly believe that leaving such infections alone can be as effective as treating them with medication.

A recent study that appeared in the *British Medical Journal* supports this. The researchers found that giving a placebo had the same effect in most cases as giving the antibiotic. Overuse of antibiotics is known to cause resistance to them in bacteria, requiring the development of newer and stronger antibiotics.

Writing on the BMI study in

the *Israel Journal of Family Practice*, family medicine specialist Dr. Andre Matalon of Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine and Kupat Holim Clalit says antibiotics are effective "only slightly" in preventing pain in a small group of children, two to seven days after treatment begins. To help one child to escape pain from an ear infection, 17 others get antibiotics as well.

"This study reminds us that simple infections in children usually pass by themselves," he writes. Careful watching and follow-up are better than automatically giving the medication.

He notes that countries like Finland and Denmark, where doctors don't give antibiotics for ear infections, have no more deaf children, mastoiditis and ear operations than the US and Israel, where antibiotic use is high. Matalon urges his colleagues to be more careful when dispensing antibiotics.

**PROTECTING BABIES**  
British scientists believe they can prevent babies from developing severe disabilities such as cerebral palsy (CP) or blindness

caused by oxygen starvation of the brain cells during a difficult birth. The chief researcher, Dr. John Wyatt of University College in London, reported at a recent pediatrics meeting in Washington, that a water-chilled helmet can prevent brain damage in infants.

According to a report in *Pediatrics and New Scientist*, lowering the temperature of the brain by a few degrees Celsius can prevent the chemical reactions that lead to the death of the brain cells' mitochondria (which supply energy).

But since it's dangerous to cool the whole body — hypothermia can harm the heart and lungs — the scientists developed a snug cap with fine plastic tubes sewn in; water cooled to about three degrees below normal body temperature is circulated through the tubes.

"We believe cooling the brain can stop the process of brain damage that occurs in the first 24 hours after birth," said Wyatt. Brain scans he conducted established that the damage occurs between 24 and 48 hours after delivery.

## Eating your way to hormonal balance

By PATRICIA MEISOL

Can menopausal women eat their way to hormone balance? Several new cookbooks featuring phyto-estrogens as a main course and a recently announced study showing that plant-based estrogen does improve bone density of post-menopausal women, makes one wonder.

Consider this: Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco have found that Estrath, an estrogen derived from soy and yams now prescribed for hot flashes, also improved bone density in women. It works in half the dose and without the ill effects cited by patients taking the most commonly prescribed animal-based estrogen.

Harry Genant, director of the osteoporosis research center at UCSF, says plant sources may attract women who have stopped hormone-replacement therapies because of side effects. The study coincides with a spate of cookbooks aimed at post-menopausal women.

They feature plants naturally high in estrogen, including yucca, blood root and leafy greens, and dishes such as "Mrs. Kale Gets Steamed" and "Mood Swing Anti-Fasto."

"You are going to see more and more of this huge wave of soy products and soy cookbooks," says Mary Ann Gilderbloom, senior publicist for Chronicle Books, publisher of *The Hot Flash Cookbook: Delicious Recipes for Health and Well Being Through Menopause*, by Cathy Luchini.

Feeding this phenomenon, she explains is the generation of women now turning 50 (which includes Hillary Clinton) who are aware of breast cancer and osteoporosis. Also, younger women are watching their grandparents and parents suffer from osteoporosis and say "not me," Gilderbloom says.

Here are two other new cookbooks for the menopausal women: *Recipes for Change*, by Lisa DeAngelis and Molly Siple (Dutton/Penguin Books); *Savoring the Day - Recipes and Remedies to Enhance Your Natural Rhythms*, by Judith B. Hurley (Morrow Books).

So should menopausal women be rejiggering their diets? *The Baltimore Sun* asked Trudy Bush, professor of epidemiology at the

University of Maryland Medical School, some questions about hormone replacement.

Bush is an expert on estrogen who is studying hormone replacement's use in preventing heart disease.

Q. Can people eat their way to balanced hormones?  
A. I don't think so, but it would be fun trying. What's been really hot are plant estrogens. These are estrogens from soy products. I don't have personal experience, but a study by one of my colleagues has found them to be fairly effective at doing all the things animal estrogen does.

The problem is, they occur in such low quantities in food you can't get enough by simply eating them.

Q. What's diet got to do with menopause? Should we start cooking with plants that have estrogen?  
A. For some women it may help. For those with severe symptoms, like hot flashes and night sweats, they probably can't take in enough soy protein. If symptoms are not severe, a healthy diet is always good. People want to control things they don't have control over and aging is one of them. I have seen no data that shows any diet can delay bone loss or alleviate menopausal symptoms. I would qualify that: An adequate calcium intake may be very important in preserving bone mass.

The idea that women can cook themselves out of menopause is wonderful and great, but I advise them to take hormones, too — it's the most effective thing we have.

Q. How many types of estrogen are there?  
A. Natural and synthetic. The natural are those in nature, human or animal or plant. Most estrogen now is taken from urine of pregnant horses.

Q. Do patients have a choice?  
A. Yes. Synthetic hormones are used in birth control pills. They are a little more potent, but cheap. I don't think it matters much. The major side effect with estrogen is uterine bleeding.

Q. Is every woman a candidate for hormone replacement?  
A. Every woman should consider it because the benefits are very marked and the risk minimal.

Q. How effective are over-the-counter hormone replacement therapies?  
A. Women should consult their doctors. (The Baltimore Sun)

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

LAST CHANGE

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

Main table of Israeli shares with columns for company names, share prices, and last change percentages.

NYSE

Table listing NYSE share prices and changes.

LONDON

Table listing London share prices and changes.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Table listing international share prices and changes from New York.

Main table of international share prices and changes, including companies like Microsoft, Intel, and various European firms.

Table of financial market data including LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT, FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES, NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES, OTHER MARKET INDEXES, DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US), US COMMODITIES, SPOT MARKET METALS (US), NEW YORK METAL FUTURES, LONDON METAL FIXES, and DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA.

Wall Street shares tumble over Asian crisis

Wall Street STOCKS

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks tumbled Friday in the second most-active session ever, but avoided a rout that started in early trading on fresh signs that Asia's economic crisis will hurt US corporate profits.

Europe

LONDON (Reuters) - European shares followed Wall Street into a nose-dive on Friday as jitters over Asia's financial problems sent a sobering pre-Christmas chill through global financial markets.

Dollar gains on Asian woes

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The dollar's upward trajectory against the yen continued on Friday despite another round of multi-billion dollar sales by the Bank of Japan in an effort to defend its currency.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

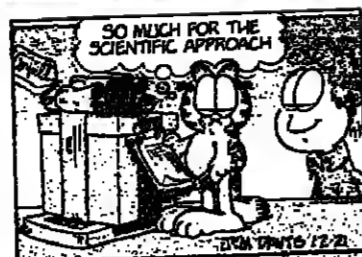
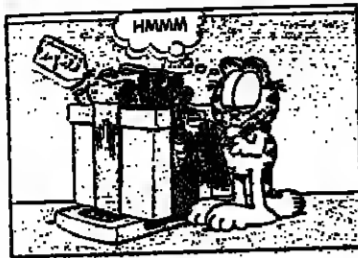
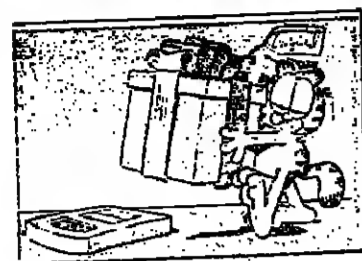
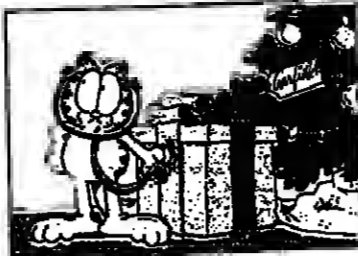
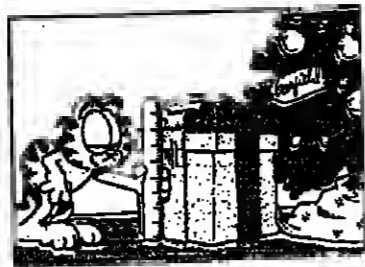
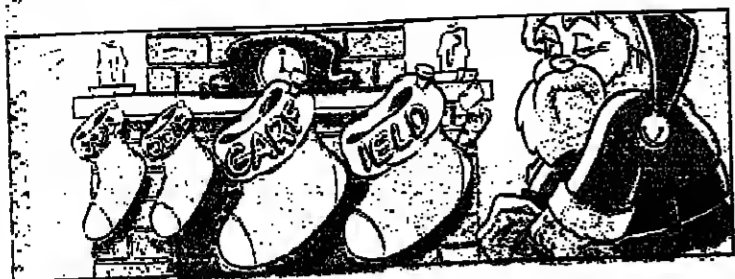
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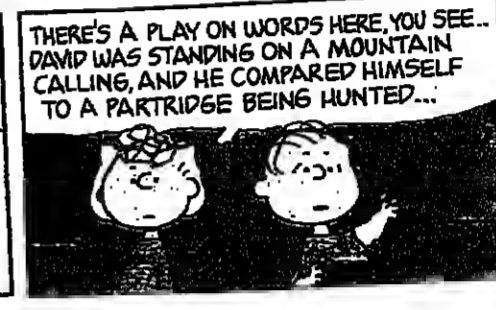
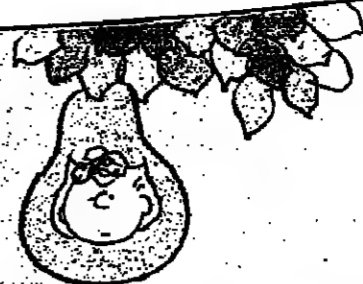
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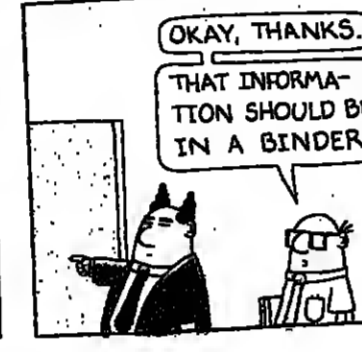
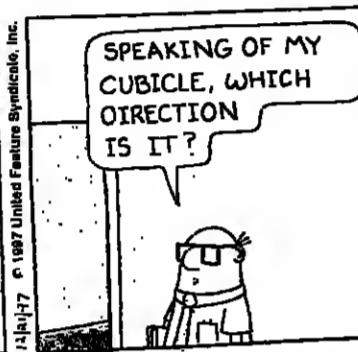
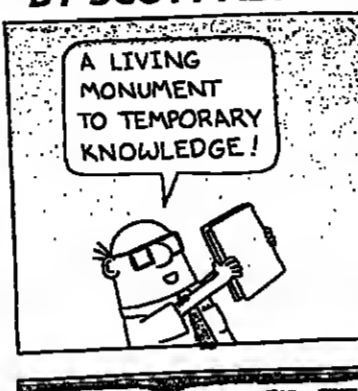
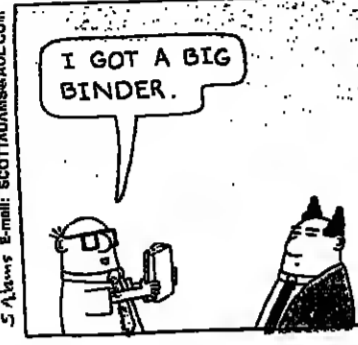


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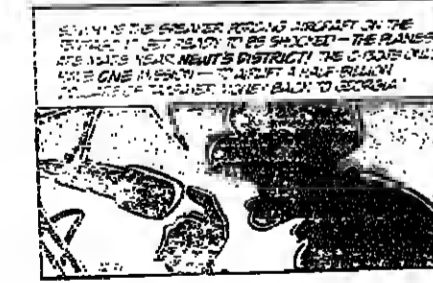
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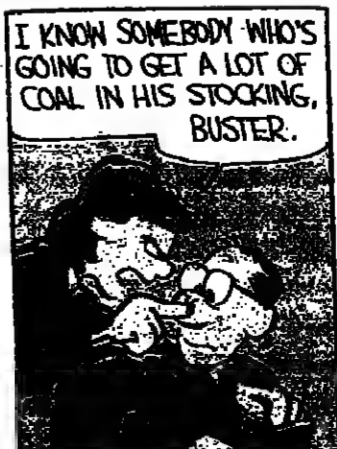
FEIFFER



Calvin and Hobbes

by Watterson

CAN WE GET THIS TREE, MOM? CAN WE?



Handwritten note in Arabic script.

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT



Colin Firth (right) discusses Arsenal's chances of winning England's soccer championship in 'Fever Pitch.'

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ing is finely tuned and there are some evocative moments. Tonight and tomorrow at the Sizzane Dellar Center in Tel Aviv at 9 p.m.

ENGLISH THEATER

Mark Ravenhill's news-making Shopping and Fucking, directed by Max Stafford-Clark and performed by his Out of Joint theater company...

DANCE

Choreographer Tamar Borer's Kad, in which pottery shards are both barrier and pathway, needs to realize that form requires content as well. The dance...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\* FEVER PITCH - Based on British writer Nick Hornby's autobiographical bestseller, this is a genuinely delightful love story...

TV

- CHANNEL 1: 6:30 News flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:45 Good Morning Israel... EDUCATIONAL TV: 8:00 Globe Watch, 8:30 Science, 9:15 Arithmetic...

CABLE

- CHANNEL 4: 11:30 The Awakening (1995) - the life of a hard-working motel owner... CHANNEL 5: 6:30 Bodies in Motion, 6:30 Dangerous Games...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 4 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News, Beverly Hills 90210, Married with Children, etc.

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WEATHER table with columns for location, low, high, and weather conditions for various cities.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 A tale concocted by Oriental ecstasies (8), 3 Small vehicle rating as a divine thing once (6)...

SOLUTIONS

AGENT TENAGRAM: G E R R K H A, O E R A G E S S I L I N G, I E B I N I B I N I O, I O H A A S I U R S O N G, I T A S P E C, I A N G L O A M E R I C A N, I E R O O R, I O N I C H O I N T A L O G, I E T S M A O A N S E I, I E R P U R S, I E I L I, E X T R A C T O R P R E G I S

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 7 Fertilising dust (6), 8 Simpler (6), 10 A few (7)...

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE: 5 - Bride of the Andes 7, Orius Negro 7:30, 8 - The Full Monty 7:30, 9 - My Best Friend's Wedding 7:30...

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